

Torrance, California  
July 5, 1944

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Wednesday, July 5, 1944 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilman: Gilbert.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Being an Adjourned Regular Meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from The Texas Company reporting that for the period January 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943 no gross receipts were received from the use and operation of Franchise Ordinance No. 117 and County Franchise Ordinances Nos. 884, 1129 and 1377, but to preclude any possible controversy, enclosed their check for \$25.59. Matter of record.

A communication was read from The Tide Water Associated Oil Company reporting that for the period January 1, 1944 to June 30, 1944 no permits were issued and no pipe lines laid or removed under Los Angeles County Ordinances Nos. 1014 and 1351, within the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Chamber of Commerce stating that because of blackout regulations the retail merchants of Torrance are not permitted to leave their display lights on after closing, and requesting better illumination of the shopping district.

The City Electrician was asked if the lighting could be improved and what the possible cost would be. After some discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that City Electrician Butterfield make an estimate of the cost of improving lighting conditions in the shopping district and report his recommendations at the next meeting. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Ernest Dandoy, 2221 - 235th Street, Torrance, requesting a business license for a glass shop, the place of business to be temporarily located at his home.

Some discussion followed on zoning restrictions and the procedure to take to obtain a variance from the Planning Commission.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk inform Mr. Dandoy of the procedure to follow in petitioning the Planning Commission for a variance. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Longren Aircraft Company stating that the zone in which they are located is classified as Agriculture rather than industrial; that at the close of the war they expect to expand but will have to build outside of this area because of the present zoning restrictions; and requesting that the strip between Crenshaw Boulevard and Elm be reclassified as light industrial.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the Longren Aircraft Company for rezoning be referred to the Planning Commission for action and recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. George P. Thatcher stating that the Girl Scouts are holding their annual summer camp at Torrance Park July 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and August 1 and 2, 1944, between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., and requesting that a bus pick up 25 Girl Scouts at WALTERIA and another 25 Girl Scouts at Pacific Coast Highway & Narbonne and Lomita Blvd. & Narbonne, at 9:10 A.M.; passengers to pay the regular scheduled fare.

Mayor Tolson moved that the request for bus service be granted. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1675

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1675 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1676

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPOINTING CHARLES F. KOORS AS TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1676 be adopted. Mayor Tolson seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci objected to the passing of this Resolution stating that it was his understanding there was to be another meeting before arriving at a definite decision. Discussion followed.

Mayor Tolson reminded the Council there was a motion before the house, and called for a vote. AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

At this time the bid of the Crown Body and Coach Corporation for six busses came up for consideration.

Mayor Tolson moved that the bid as submitted by the Crown Body and Coach Corporation for six busses be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Cucci agreed that the City was in need of new transportation, but first he wished to know just what the City was going to do about disposing of the old busses, as he saw no reason why the City should continue to keep five old busses which were continually losing revenue. He believed this matter should be decided on before purchasing any new busses. He further stated that the City appeared to be going into this in a haphazard manner and he was not in favor of experimenting with city funds by purchasing twelve new busses and would not be a party to the transaction. It was his opinion that after the war the city would not even require the use of six busses.

Mayor Tolson called for a vote on the motion before the house. AYES: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$1715.00 be made for rock and road oil materials for 4 ft. shoulders on 190th Street. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$945.00 be made for road materials for 171st Street, between Prairie Avenue and Yukon Avenue. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$620.00 be made for rock and road oil materials for Yukon Avenue, between 171st Street and Redondo Beach Blvd. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$945.00 be made for rock and road oil materials for Arlington Avenue, between 190th Street and 182nd Street. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

City Engineer Jain reported on the request of the County Sanitation District for the City to execute an easement giving the United States Government the right to construct, through Federal Works Agency, a trunk line sewer along certain streets in the City of Torrance. Mr. Jain stated that the easement was brief but failed to make provision for the resurfacing of the streets used and grant the City permission to connect to the trunk line. Mayor Tolson said he would discuss these matters with the County Sanitation District people at their next meeting.

City Attorney McCall reported on the Special Census stating that in 1943 an Act was past by the Legislature authorizing a city to apply to the United States Census Bureau for permission to have a census of a city taken, a copy of the census to be filed with the Department of Public Works and Motor Vehicle Department.

Mr. McCall stated further that he had taken up the matter with Mr. Beemus of Mr. Legg's office who informed him that the City of Los Angeles, in conjunction with the County Board of Supervisors, was endeavoring to adopt a plan whereby all the smaller cities would be included in the census, and that he would inform Mr. McCall of the results of the plan. Mr. McCall informed the Council that if it wished to take its own census, it should write to the United States Department of Census at Washington, D. C. and inquire the cost; they to furnish the people experienced in that line to take the census, which the city would be required to pay. The report would then be filed with the Department of Public Works and Motor Vehicle Department in Sacramento, and after this report has been approved, an increase in the vehicle funds would be forthcoming. However, Mr. McCall said it would be a matter of three months before the report could be completed which would be too late for the city to benefit in this fiscal year. He thought it advisable for the city to wait until he had received a report from Mr. Beemus on the census plan being worked out with the County Board of Supervisors, which he expected within the next day or two.

With reference to the request of Dr. C. E. Easley, 234 Camino Del Campo, Hollywood Riviera, for permission to construct a cesspool in the parkway of Camino de Los Colinas, City Attorney McCall reported that he could find no law permitting an individual to place a cesspool on public property, therefore it would not be legal in this case.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Dr. Easley be denied. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert.

With reference to the installation of a sewer line on 203rd Street, City Attorney McCall reported that it would be necessary for

the residents of that district to first procure the money for this installation before the city could start on the project. He added that at Mayor Tolson's request he was briefing all the law in this state and elsewhere on the question of municipalities installing various classes of sewer systems and would submit his findings when completed.

Mayor Tolson said he had been asked by people living in South Torrance what procedure was necessary to have sewers installed between Sepulveda and Lomita Blvds. He advised them he would furnish this information as soon as the City Attorney informed him of the procedure to follow; and if a sewer could be installed without a bond issue, or if the city could form an assessment district to be voted on by the people.

Mrs. Alcalá, who was in the audience, stated that they did not wish to have the sewer installed before they had collected all the money, but what they did desire was some statement from the Council that the sewer would be installed by the city as soon as they had received all the money from the property owners. She advised the Council that there was no more room to build additional cesspools and that these were only good for some ten months. The condition of the cesspools in the Pueblo district as well as the cesspool ordinance was discussed at length.

Mayor Tolson asked City Engineer Jain to make an estimate of the cost of putting in a sewer at 203rd Street and added that the people of this district were to be commended for their wish to improve their living conditions.

Mrs. Alcalá told the Council that they would have the money ready when the City was ready to install the sewer.

Attorney McCall informed the Council that Franchise Ordinances Nos. 57 and 146 granted The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company expire July 10, 1944 and that the Santa Fe had made application for renewal.

In answer to a request from the Council for a report on the law prohibiting the street blocking by trains, City Attorney McCall stated that after a careful study he could find no state law prohibiting trains from blocking streets; that this question was treated as a highway matter and was controlled by city ordinances.

Councilman Cucci objected to the trains standing too long over street crossings, and also to the excessive smoke emanating from the engines, and requested that provisions prohibiting or abating these nuisances be incorporated in the franchise, and that if these requests could not be complied with by the Santa Fe, that the Ordinance should be repealed. There was considerable discussion on these two points.

Mr. G. L. Weiss, representative of the Santa Fe, addressed the Council at this time. With reference to trains blocking crossings, he said that due to war conditions the trains were now much longer than in normal times, but that the trains should not have to block the streets more than five minutes; however, to break a train now would involve added expense in operation and time. He added that at present it was impossible to install wigwag systems as these were not being manufactured at the present time and they did not have any in stock. Controlling the smoke from trains was a difficult matter to handle said Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Weiss said he would be pleased to transmit our request to the Manager of their Operating Department who, he assured the Council, would give the necessary instructions to have our wishes complied with. He suggested, however, that the Council address a communication to the Santa Fe on this matter which, he believed, would carry more weight and receive their willing cooperation.

City Attorney McCall said, that since the franchise is to be written, it would be advisable that he and the attorney for the Santa Fe get together and endeavor to work out these problems to the satisfaction of all.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Carl E. Marsteller, Ticket Agent, asked about the status of his contract which expired June 30, 1944. Mayor Tolson informed him that the contract would continue in effect until such time as the Council arrived at some decision on the matter.

At 9:10 P.M., on motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.

A. J. B. B. B.  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

W. H. Tolson  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE